

X. pedissequum Harris, which prefers the vicinity of fairly tall herbage. *X. citrofasciatum* is not a typical insect, mostly favouring open country. The above record was too late for inclusion in *The Hover flies of Kent* (Chandler, 1969, *Trans. Kent Field Club*, 3(3), which includes all notable syrphid records from my Blackheath garden except the present one, *Didea fasciata* Macq. (*Ent. mon. Mag.* in press), *Melangyna lasiophthalma* (Zett.) (female in shrubbery, 1.vi.1973) and *Syrphus torvus* Osten-Sacken, rarely.— A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

***Pterostichus oblongopunctatus* (F.) (Col.: Carabidae) in north-west Kent**

This beetle appears very scarce in the south-east, becoming less so towards the west and north; it is quite common in the Forest of Dean and the Scottish Highlands, for instance. I first met with it (a single specimen) in the New Forest in 1935.

Among some Carabidae sent to me not long ago for checking by Mr K.C. Lewis I was surprised to find an example of *P. oblongopunctatus* which he had taken in a pitfall trap baited with meat, under pine trees, in Joydens Wood, Bexley, West Kent (12.vi.1967). No other has been found despite much trapping and other collecting in the locality. Under loose bark in woods is the most usual habit. I have heard of only one previous Kent record, some 10-12 years ago at a rough guess, but have no note of the locality or vice-county.— A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

***Syncopacma larseniella* Gozm. (Lep.: Gelechiidae) new to North Hampshire**

On July 1996 a specimen of *Syncopacma larseniella* flew to m.v. light at the cottage here, along with 290 specimens of 94 other species. I am grateful to John Langmaid, who kindly identified the insect by dissecting its genitalia, and to Barry Goater for confirmation of the record as new to North Hampshire. The foodplant, *Lotus pedunculatus* (= *uliginosus*), the Greater Bird's foot trefoil, is cited in *The Flora of Hampshire* (Brewis, Bowman & Rose, 1996) as largely absent from the chalk: the plant does, however, grow on the Greensand at about 400 metres from my light (*teste* Stephen Povey).— ALASDAIR ASTON, Wake's Cottage, Selborne, Hampshire GU34 3JH.

***Metopoplax ditomoides* (Costa) (Hem.: Lygaeidae) in north-west Kent**

Southwood and Leston (1959. *Land and water bugs of the British Isles*. Warne) gave Hounslow Heath, Middlesex as the first locality in which this distinctive little bug was found in England. Kirby (1996. *Heteroptera study group newsletter* No. 13) stated that, within the past six years, it has been found in Oxfordshire and Surrey. On 16 May 1998 I swept a single male *ditomoides* whilst recording Diptera at Crossness (O.S. grid ref. TQ 4980) on the south bank of the Thames near Erith. The area is largely derelict land, which, like so many areas along the extreme north coast of the county, is dry and sun-baked. The ground flora in the spot where the specimen was found consisted of various grasses, *Artemisia* spp. and *Medicago* spp.— LAURENCE CLEMONS, 14 St. John's Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NE.